JOHN SPRAGENS, JR.

SOUTH VIET NAM *In struggle*

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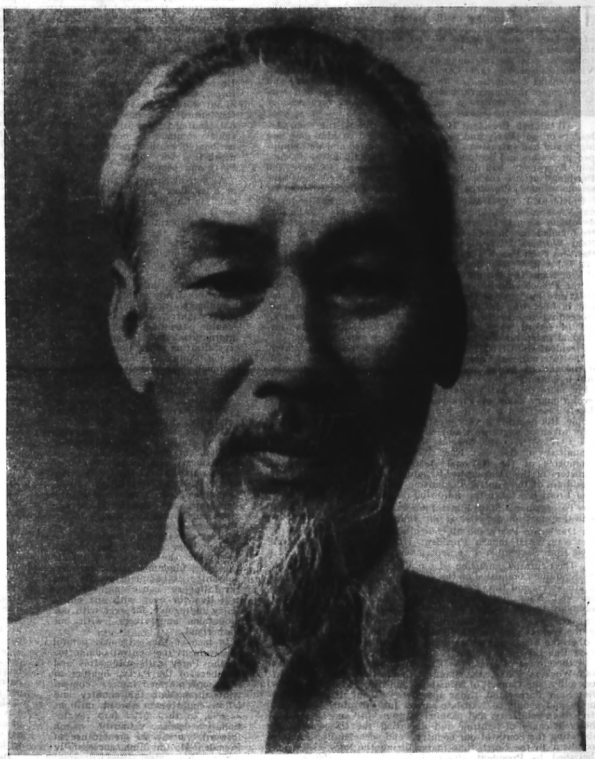

BELOVED PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH WILL LIVE FOR EVER IN OUR HEARTS

President HO CHI MINH is no more

Special communique of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front.

The Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front feel boundless grief in informing our entire Party and our entire Vietnamese people that Comrade Ho Chi Minh, President of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, passed away at 9-47 on September 3, 1969, after a sudden, very serious heart attack, at the age of 79.

All through President Ho Chi Minh's illness, the comrades leaders of our Party and State had attended to him day and night, and had entrusted a collective of qualified and well-equipped professors and doctors with seeking by all means to cure him. Everybody had done his best, determined to cure the President at all costs, but due to his advanced age and serious ailment, President HO CHI MINH has departed from us.

President HO CHI MINH was the great, beloved leader of our Vietnamese working class and nation. All his life he had devotedly served the revolution, the people, the Fatherland. He founded the Indo-Chinese Communist Party, now the Viet Nam Workers' Party, founded the National United Front and the Viet Nam People's Army, organized the August Revolution and led it to victory, and established the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. He led our people to wage a war of resistance to the French colonialists formerly and has been leading our resistance war against the US imperialists at present with the aim of liberating South Viet Nam, defending the North, and proceeding toward the peaceful reunification of the country, and to record very glorious victories in the struggle for national independence, people's democracy and socialism.

President HO CHI MINH was a staunch, outstanding fighter of the international Communist movement and a close friend of the nations in the world now struggling for independence and freedom.

For more than half a century now, the name, virtues and revolutionary cause of President HO CHI MINH have been closely associated with the life and fight of our Vietnamese people. His death is a very great loss to our Party and people.

In token of our regret and our gratitude toward President HO CHI MINH, the Special Joint Meeting of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly and the Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front has taken the following decisions:

1- To organize a State Funeral for President HO CHI MINH, with the most solemn rites of our country.

2- Our entire Party and all our armed forces and people of Viet Nam shall mourn President HO CHI MINH for seven days, from September 4 to September 10, 1969.

3- The Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, the Council of Ministers, and the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front shall organize a grand ceremony to the memory of President HO CHI MINH.

4- To appoint a State Funeral Committee comprising leaders of the highest ranks of the Party, the State, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front and other mass organisations to organize the State Funeral for President HO CHI MINH.

In these days of grief, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, the Council of Ministers, and the Presidium of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front appeal to all our Party, armed forces and people to translate sorrow into revolutionary acts, strengthen solidarity, and channel all our will and forces into the great cause of fighting and defeating the US aggressors, liberating the South of our country, and successfully building socialism in the North thus materializing the lofty aspiration cherished by President HO CHI MINH — *the building of a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic, prosperous and powerful Viet Nam.*

The name and spirit of the Great President HO CHI MINH will live for ever in our hearts ! His revolutionary cause will certainly be carried forward and completed victoriously !

Hanoi, September 3, 1969

The Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party,
The Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam,
The Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam,
The Presidium of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front.

Let us translate sorrow into revolutionary acts

(Appeal of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee)

The Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party has issued an appeal to all the cadres and members of the Party, to the fighters and compatriots throughout the country and to the Vietnamese abroad. This appeal informs the passing away of President Ho Chi Minh and said :

"Comrade Ho Chi Minh is the founder of our Party and our State, the founder of the Viet Nam National United Front and people's armed forces, the great and beloved leader of our working class and people, of the entire Vietnamese nation, an outstanding fighter of the international communist movement and national liberation movement. His death is a very great loss to our Party and people.

As a great patriot, a loyal disciple of Karl Marx and V.I. Lenin. Comrade Ho Chi Minh has upheld the spirit of thorough-going struggle against imperialism, dedicated all his life to the cause of liberation of the working class, the nation and mankind, for independence and freedom, for socialism and communism. He has upheld the spirit of independence and self-support, creatively applied Marxism-Leninism to the specific conditions of our country, and closely combined genuine patriotism with proletarian internationalism. He embodies the crystalization of the finest traditions of the Vietnamese nation with the thorough-going revolutionary ideology of our time — the Marxist-Leninist ideology.

His life is a shining example of revolutionary heroism, of militant solidarity, industry and of the virtues of simplicity, modesty, industry, frugality, honesty and integrity, of public-mindedness and selflessness. His name has been closely associated with the glorious victories of the Vietnamese revolution since our Party came into being and symbolizes the most glorious epoch in the history of the Vietnamese nation.

President Ho Chi Minh has departed from us. But he has fostered for the Vietnamese revolution the fundamental factors that guarantee its complete victory. His revolutionary cause and virtues will live for ever with our entire Party and people, for ever with our mountains and rivers, with our Fatherland.

In face of this extremely painful bereavement the Central Committee of the Party calls all cadres and members of the Party, fighters of the people's armed forces, compatriots throughout the country and fellow-countrymen abroad, millions as one, to turn grief into revolutionary deeds, valiantly march forward, pursue the great cause of President Ho Chi Minh, successfully realize his ideal and dreams; strictly implement the line and policy of the Central Committee of the Party and Government, endeavour to learn from his thoughts, virtues and style of work.

President Ho Chi Minh taught us : "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom"... " Our country is one, our nation is one "... "So long as there remains a single aggressor on our land, we still must fight on to sweep him away ". When still alive, he day and night turned his thoughts to our blood-sealed Southern compatriots, and showed deep concern for the cause of national reunification. We must persist in and push forward the struggle against US aggression, for national salvation, march forward and completely defeat the US aggressors, liberate the South, defend the North and achieve peaceful reunification of the Fatherland.

President Ho Chi Minh taught us : " North Viet Nam must certainly advance to socialism. And the most salient feature of the transition period in our country is to advance from a backward agricultural country straight to socialism without going through the stage of capitalist development". Let us endeavour to step up the cause of socialist construction and achieve socialist transformation, constantly pay attention to the improvement of the people's material and cultural life, increase the forces of the North in all fields, defend the North and fulfil the sacred obligation of the great rear area towards the great frontline.

President Ho Chi Minh taught us : While accomplishing our national task, we must at the same time fulfil our internationalist obligation. Let us join the peoples of the brotherly countries in striving to strengthen and consolidate the socialist system, continuing our resolute support to the revolutionary movement of various countries, actively contribute to the world people's struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

President Ho Chi Minh constantly endeavoured to enhance solidarity and unity of mind within our Party and among our people. Loyal to our great teacher and upholding the precious tradition of our Party, we Vietnamese communists must do our best to preserve solidarity and unity of mind within the Party like the apples of our own eyes.

Confident in the correct line of the Party, in the strength of the masses, and in the final victory of the revolution, let our entire people unite around the Party, let our entire Party closely tighten its ranks around the Central Committee and struggle to the end for the independence and reunification of the Fatherland, for freedom and happiness of the people, for socialism and communism...

Let all our people and armed forces act upon President Ho Chi Minh's teachings, spare no efforts in the patriotic emulation, record still bigger victories in the resistance war against US aggression, for national salvation as well as in the building of socialism. This is the most practical way to show that our hearts are with him and our gratitude is to him.

Dear comrades and compatriots,

The revolutionary cause of our people has won and is winning great victories. Let all our Pary, armed forces, and people develop their qualities and overcome their shortcomings, bring the resistance to US aggression and for national salvation and the cause of socialist revolution to total victory, so as to achieve a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic, prosperous and powerful Viet Nam under the invincible banner of President Ho Chi Minh.

JOHN SPRAGENS, JR.

Summary Biography of

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH (Nguyen Tat Thanh in his childhood, and Nguyen Ai Quoc for many years in revolutionary activity later) was born on May 19, 1890 in Kim Lien village, Nam Dan district, Nghe An province, and died on September 3, 1969 in Hanoi.

He was born to a patriotic scholar family of peasant origin, and grew up into manhood in a locality whose population has a tradition of heroic resistance to foreign aggression, in a period when the movement for national salvation was seething in Viet Nam.

In late 1911, desirous to learn from revolutionary theories and experiences in the various countries so as to liberate his homeland from the colonialism, President HO CHI MINH went abroad. He became a worker and took part in the revolutionary mobilization of the peoples in many countries, while struggling ceaselessly for the independence and freedom of his own nation. The first Vietnamese to support the Great Russian October Revolution and to find in Marxism-Leninism the way to liberate the working class and the peoples in the colonies, he participated in the founding of the French Communist Party at the Tours Congress in 1920. From a genuine patriot, he became an outstanding Communist fighter. "To save one's country and liberate one's nation, there is no other road than that of proletarian revolution," he said (1).

To combine the struggle of the Vietnamese people with the international workers' movement and the movement for national liberation in the world, he took part in founding the *League of the Peoples of French Colonies* in 1921, and published the paper "*Le Paria*" in France in 1922. In 1923 he was elected to the *Executive Committee of the Peasants' International*. In 1924, he took part at the 5th Congress of the Communist International, and was appointed Standing Member of the Eastern Department, directly in charge of the Southern Section. In 1925, he joined in founding the *League of Oppressed Asian Nations*, and published two well-known books, "*Le Procès de la Colonisation française*" (*French Colonization on Trial*) (1925) and "*The Path of Revolution* (1927).

To pave the way for a party of Vietnamese communists, in 1925, he founded the *Viet Nam Young Revolutionaries' Association* in Canton, China, and the "Communist League" as the core for the former, and trained Communist militants to lead the League and introduce Marxism-Leninism into Viet Nam. In 1929, the first communist organizations made their appearance in Viet Nam. Empowered by the Executive Committee of the Communist International, he convoked, on February 3, 1930 a "Merger Conference" to unite various Communist organizations in Viet Nam into the *Viet Nam Communist Party*, which later was renamed the *Indo-Chinese Communist Party*, now the *Viet Nam Workers' Party*. He pointed out at the above-said "Merger Conference" that the line for revolution in Viet Nam is first to make national, democratic revolution and then to carry out a socialist revolution.

From 1930 to 1910, Comrade HO CHI MINH continued working in extremely hard and difficult conditions for the liberation of Viet Nam and other oppressed nations.

In 1941, he returned to the country, convoked the 8th Session of the Central Committee of the Indo-Chinese Communist Party to decide the line for the salvation of the country, founded the *League for the Independence of Viet Nam* (Viet Minh), organized the Liberation armed forces, built the base for the revolution and led the people in local uprisings and in preparing for the general uprising to seize power in the whole country.

The August (1945) Revolution triumphed and he declared the founding of the *Democratic Republic of Viet Nam* (Sept. 2, 1945). Free general elections were organised in the whole country to form the National Assembly, which adopted the first democratic constitution of Viet Nam. The National Assembly, First Legislature, elected him President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam (1946).

Together with the Central Committee of the Party, President HO CHI MINH led our entire Party, army and people in smashing the schemes of the imperialists, thus preserving and consolidating revolutionary power. Shortly after the August Revolution, the French colonialists came back for another aggression against our country. He appealed to the entire nation to rise up in resistance to defend the independence and freedom of the Fatherland and safeguard and develop the gains of the August Revolution. He said, "...We would rather sacrifice everything than lose our country, or accept slavery "(2).

At the 2nd Congress of the Party (1951), he was elected President of the Central Committee of the Party. Under the leadership of the Party's Central Committee headed by President Ho Chi Minh, our people's sacred war of resistance to the French colonialist aggressors won big successes, and gloriously ended with the great Dien Bien Phu victory (1954).

Following the complete liberation of the North of our country(1955), the Party's Central Committee and President Ho Chi Minh laid down two strategic tasks for the Vietnamese Revolution, i.e., to carry out socialist revolution and socialist construction in the North, while struggling for the liberation of the South, thus achieving the reunification of the homeland and completing the task of national people's democratic revolution in the whole country.

The 3rd Congress of the Party (1960) decided the line for socialist transformation and socialist construction in the North of our country, and the line for the struggle to liberate the South in order to achieve the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland. The Congress unanimously reelected Comrade Ho Chi Minh President of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party.

Together with the Party's Central Committee, President Ho Chi Minh has led our people's great resistance to the war of aggression by the US imperialists. He said, "Our country is one, our nation is one" (3), and "... the South and the North are of the same family. They are brothers of the same blood, nothing can separate them" (4). He emphasized, "Nothing is more precious than Independence and Freedom" (5).

Together with the Party's Central Committee, he led the socialist transformation and socialist construction in the North of our country. He said, "The North must advance toward socialism, and *the most salient feature in the transition period* in our country is to advance from a backward agricultural country directly to socialism without going through the stage of capitalist development," (6).

President HO CHI MINH always advised us to combine our domestic revolutionary tasks with our international revolutionary obligations. He instructed our entire Party and people to contribute actively to the defence of the socialist system, restore unity and identity of mind in our camp and within the international Communist movement on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, and strive to do our share in the struggle of the world's peoples for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

President HO CHI MINH creatively applied Marxism-Leninism to the concrete conditions of our country, charted correct lines, taken the Vietnamese Revolution from one victory to another. He ingeniously combined the Vietnamese nation's finest traditions with the thorough-going revolutionary thoughts of the working class, and with Marxist-Leninist ideology, and closely combined genuine patriotism with proletarian internationalism. The revolutionary cause of our Party and President HO CHI MINH have ushered in a new era in the history of the Vietnamese nation, era in which the Vietnamese people defeat the various imperialist forces, liberate the nation, materialize people's democracy, and build socialism in their country.

He strongly believed in the great force of the masses. All his life, he devotedly served the Revolution, the people, the Fatherland. He is a bright and potless example of collective spirit, sense of organization and revolutionary virtues: loyalty to the Party, dedication to the people, industry, thrift, honesty and integrity, public-mindedness and selflessness, modesty and simplicity.

President HO CHI MINH's cause is truly great. He founded the Marxist-Leninist Party of Viet Nam, founded the Viet Nam people's united front, the Viet Nam people's armed forces, and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and contributed to the strengthening of international solidarity.

President HO CHI MINH is the great teacher of the Vietnamese Revolution, the beloved leader of the working class and entire nation of Viet Nam, an outstanding fighter, a talented activist in the international Communist movement and the national liberation movement. His name will live for ever in the heart of each patriotic Vietnamese. His cause will certainly be carried forward victoriously.

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(1) Introduction to "*HO CHI MINH, Selected Writings and Statements*" published in the Soviet Union, 1959.

(2) Appeal for Nation-wide Resistance, December 20, 1946.

(3) Letter to Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium, and the members, of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation (June 5, 1967).

(4) Speech of greeting on the occasion of New Year's Day and the return of the Party's Central Committee and the Government to the capital city (January 1st 1955).

(5) President HO CHI MINH's Appeal (July 17, 1966).

(6) "Thirty Years of the Party's Activities."

Let us hold high the banner of President HO CHI MINH

FOLLOWING is the text of the appeal jointly issued by the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, and the Advisory Council, in connection with President HO CHI MINH's death, to our compatriots, fighters and cadres throughout South Viet Nam.

"Compatriots in all South Viet Nam,

All officers and men of the armed forces, cadres and personnel of all public services at all levels,

Our beloved President HO CHI MINH, the Father of our nation, the great leader and great teacher of the Vietnamese Revolution, has departed from us.

Can there be any greater, more sacred sorrow to our whole nation, to each of us Vietnamese? The whole progressive mankind is sharing our boundless grief. Generations to come will engrave in their mind this historic separation.

The life, works and name of President HO CHI MINH have mingled with our nation, our people, our land. President HO CHI MINH has inherited and best developed the finest virtues of our nation. He is the greatest pride of our Fatherland, our people.

He is the crystallization of the tradition of staunchness, indomitableness upheld by our forefathers all through the 4,000 years of our history — "We would rather sacrifice everything than lose our country or be enslaved," "We are resolved to fight and to win, for independence and freedom."

He is the embodiment of our times, our nation-wide solidarity. He has been the most secure guarantee for our people's victories, and will continue to be so.

He has ingeniously combined our nation's multimillenary wisdom and courage with the quintessence of our era, thus taking the strength of our people to its peak, closely uniting the struggle of our nation with the revolutionary movements of other nations and the world's peoples as a whole.

He has been a magnificent example of the Vietnamese revolutionary heroism and the virtues of "industriousness, thrift, integrity, righteousness, public mindedness and self-denial," which have been fostered by our ancestors from one generation to another. He is the symbol of our nation's diligence, simplicity, and modesty. He has devoted his whole life to the revolution, the Fatherland, and the people.

Our nation, our people, and our country have made him great, and he in his turn has brought greatness to our nation, our people, our country.

He is our blood, flesh, spirit and wisdom. His death constitutes an extremely great loss to our nation and our people. Nevertheless, under his leadership, our Fatherland and our people have grown up rapidly over the past half-century. This is the most precious legacy he has bequeathed to us.

In his sacred memory, we now express to him our profound gratitude. To him, we pledge our resolve to preserve and develop this precious legacy, our determination to temper ourselves continuously and increase the force of our people so as to overcome all hardships and difficulties and march forward steadily on the glorious path he has blazed for our nation, our generation.

Compatriots throughout South Viet Nam, Officers and fighters of all the armed forces, cadres and personnel of all public services at all levels,

As Vietnamese living and fighting on the southern half of our country which President HO CHI MINH has always carried in his heart, each of us, patriot, fighter and cadre will carry the image of President Ho Chi Minh in our own hearts.

He is the loftiest symbol of our people's determination to fight and defeat the US aggressors. His appeals and behests to the South are like the call of the homeland, radiant like the sun. They are stimulating us and lighting the way for us to defeat the number one thug of our times—the US imperialist aggressors.

He is the most concentrated symbol of the blood-sealed love of the North, the big rear area, which has always wholeheartedly assisted the South now on the front line of the struggle against US aggression, for national salvation.

He has closely followed each step taken by us South Vietnamese. He has shared both our joy and difficulties. Because of South Viet Nam, he has asked that he be allowed to receive later all the honours bestowed on him by our people and the world.

President HO CHI MIH's love for South Viet Nam is as immense and as deep as the sea. His contributions to South Viet Nam are as great as the "Truong Son" (the Indo-China Long Range-Ed).

South Vietnamese of all strata,

As descendants of Lac-Hong (legendary kings believed to be the founders of the Vietnamese nation-Ed) all of us, regardless of social strata, ages and sexes, nationalities, religions or political tendencies, in the towns like in the countryside, in the liberated zone as well as in enemy-occupied areas, at home or abroad, all of us, including those who, for one reason or another, have been forced to serve as mercenaries or work for the US-puppet ruling machinery, should engrave in our minds this immense, deep love by President HO CHI MINH.

In our last respects to him, together with the people across the country, all of us South Vietnamese are determined to translate our sorrow into revolutionary deeds, and give all our minds and energy to the fight for the materialization, whatever the cost, of the lofty ideal left by President HO CHI MINH to the South Vietnamese people and the entire Vietnamese people.

Let us take this oath to the armed forces and people all over the country, that we the South Viet Nam armed forces and people shall accomplish the task which, before leaving us, he has given us all, i.e. millions as one man, we must uphold revolutionary heroism, brave all sacrifices and hardships, persistently carry on and step up the current war of resistance, fight on resolutely, till the complete withdrawal of the US troops and till the total collapse of the puppet army and administration, in order to liberate the South, defend the North, and proceed to the peaceful reunification of the country.

Let us pledge ourselves to implement his instruction "Unity, unity, great unity. Success, success, great success." We are resolved to ceaselessly strengthen the national unity bloc to ensure victory over the enemy and fulfilment of all revolutionary tasks.

Let us pledge to our 17 million blood-sealed North Vietnamese compatriots that we, the 14 million South Vietnamese, are determined to struggle with self-abnegation to fulfil our great responsibility and honour on the front line against the US imperialist aggressors, not only for the freedom and independence of our own nation, but also for the freedom and independence of all other nations, and for world peace.

Officers and men of all the armed forces, cadres and personnel of all public services at all levels,

We, who have the great honour of being directly taught and trained by President HO CHI MINH, let us, at this moment of supreme separation, pledge ourselves to live up to his trust, his love, and the great devotion with which he has fostered us.

Let us pledge ourselves to devote our whole lives to following his example, to lay down our lives for the country, "to die for the Fatherland to live."

Let us pledge ourselves to "be loyal to the Fatherland and the people, fulfil any tasks assigned, overcome any difficulties, and defeat any enemy."

Compatriots, fighters, cadres and personnel of all branches, at all levels throughout South Viet Nam,

Let us hold high the banner of President HO CHI MINH!

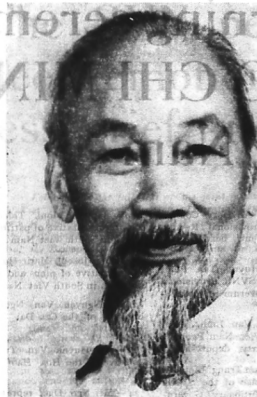
Let us be resolved to implement his teaching: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom!" Let us unite millions as one man and march forward valiantly! Let us turn grief into revolutionary deeds! Let us throw all our might and main into the fight to defeat the US aggressors completely, liberate the South, defend the North and reunify the Fatherland.

Long live the spirit of President HO CHI MINH, the Father of the nation, the beloved and respected leader and the great tescher of the Vietnamese Revolution!"

JOHN SPRAGENS, JR.

editorial

Beloved President HO CHI MINH will live for ever!



THE news struck the whole nation like a thunderclap. It stunned our minds, stupefied our senses and for a long moment stilled our hearts.

Our Captain is no more. And what a Captain He was! He steered the course of our revolution, He beaconed the route of world's communism and working class. He illum nated the path of national liberation in more than one continent.

In the long roll of Viet Nam's national heroes, He was the most unassuming, yet of unparalleled proportions. Vietnamese to the core, and possessed of the traditional dauntlessness exalted to the highest degree, He was nonetheless imbued with the most radically revolutionary tenets of our times. Born in a country with tens of disparate ethnic groups, whose divergences were exasperated by imperialist divisive designs, He fathered the United Front which welded them into a monolithic bloc. With primitive peasants and budding workers, He moulded an army who has unflinchingly faced up to the most ferocious imperialisms of all times. From a most down trodden land under feeble feudal rulers and utterly ruthless colonialists, He founded a democratic republic which, ever since its birth, has been in the van of the oppressed peoples' emancipation movement.

And then after stormy seas and wild winds, as the shore was near and packed with people panting for anticipated happiness, our Helmsman departed.

HIS heart is silent. But its throbbing continues in our thirty one million breasts. His voice is still. But its echoes are reverberated by our mountains and rivers. These words He said in an emotion-frayed tone at Ba Dinh Square : Viet Nam is entitled to, and in fact has won, freedom and independence to the preservation of which its whole people are prepared to devote their hearts and souls, lives and property, are still ringing in our ears and stiffening our resolve with the cogency of a solemn pledge.

Native of a country constantly subject to foreign invasion throughout its history, and ground down by a western imperialism for well-nigh a century, He prized independence above everything, and instilled into us His passionate love for freedom. It is such a love which has been infusing supernatural strength and stamina into our people's resistance against alien aggressors and bringing it to success after success.

More acutely than anyone else, He felt the agony of partition and held South Viet Nam deep in His heart. It's sufferings haunted His sleep, its trials made Him neglect His sustenance. In it He reposed His firmest trust, on its contributions He never stinted His praise. Only dizzy mountains and unfathomable waters can compare with His profound feeling and affection for what He always admired as the "Brass Citadel of the Fatherland".

When He exhorted the Northerners to produce more, it was first and foremost to help their kindred of the South. And it was with an eager eye to reunification that He put them on their mettle in the building of socialism.

Each of His appeals sounded like a clarion call which fired our fighters forward. They breathed into them courage, fortitude and dedication. They furnished them with a weapon to which, no modern arm has proved a match. They made them insensitive to torture and scornful of death. They put pride in their eyes to stare into shame their executioners.

OUR Teacher has passed away. But His teachings are still enlightening our minds. Driven into exile by the heart-rending plight of His oppressed and exploited fellow-countrymen, He shared the bitterness of the colonial peoples and workers of the capitalist countries. He taught His own people, He taught the South Vietnamese to treasure interrational brotherhood and to associate their anti-US struggle with that of nations still pining in servitude, of toilers still chained to their machines, of the Black people craving for nationhood and racial equality, of progressives attached to peace and social justice.

Our Father is gone. And He was a true one to every one of us, setting a high standard of simplicity, modesty and selflessness.

As President of the first colonial and semi-feudal country to emerge into statehood, He dressed and fared and lived like a common man. A statesman and revolutionist of world stature, He was as self-effacing as a country school master. He remained single all His life, for fear that a family might turn out a burden to the detriment of the affairs of state and funnelled His affection, amply reciprocated into His fellow-citizens and particularly their children.

Although the South Vietnamese people never met Him in the flesh, His image has been graven in their hearts and His name has become, in their idiom, a synonym of beauty. And so goes one of their woodnotes wild :

In the Dong Thap Muoi marshes Nenuphar is the finest flower. In the land of Viet Nam HO CHI MINH is the sweetest name.*

It was His name that Nguyen Van Troi fearlessly exhaled with his last breath in front of the firing squad. It was His name which was enshrined in her heart, when a Southern woman guerilla defiantly bared it to the points of enemy bayonets.

There was a single purpose which motivated the act of each Southerner, be he a guerilla, a farmer, a worker, a militant, a civil servant or an intellectual, a woman or a man, an elderly person, a youth or a child : Clear the land of all aggressors and traitors and welcome Him to it and to Saigon, the city whose name for all patriots is His**. For who does not bear in mind that once He requested the National Assembly to defer awarding Him the country's highest honour till in a free South Viet Nam, the Southern people could pin it on Him.

Now that Uncle Ho has left us for ever, our grief already intense is made all the more inconsolable by this thwarted wish and by the fact that He was carried off at the very moment when tidings of battles won kept streaming in at an accelerated rhythm. It wrings our hearts to think that our Captain, Father and Uncle is now lying cold and dead there in Ba Dinh Hall, at Ba Dinh Square, where twenty-four years and one day before His death, He proclaimed to the world the independence of Viet Nam. Oh, how keenly we do wish it were only a horrible dream that He is lying there cold and dead.

But no! Not all his battles are fought and not all his victories are won. And it falls on us and on our Northern brothers, in these hours of ineffable sadness to turn our sorrow into strength, our affliction into fortitude and bring his unfinished work to completion.

We will fight on to gain independence and freedom to which He dedicated every minute of His life!

We will strive our hardest to restore national unity which He cherished till his last breath!

We will close our ranks further and shoulder to shoulder with our Northern brothers fulfil our task as combatants in the forefront of the struggle against US imperialism, for freedom, independence and peace in our country and in the world at large!

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

** South Viet Nam's biggest rice-bowl.*

*** Saigon is called "Ho Chi Minh city" by patriots.*

Organization of mourning ceremonies for President HO CHI MINH in South Viet Nam

After learning of the death of President HO CHI MINH, the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet Nam and the Advisory Council to the Government met on September 4 to pay silent respects to the memory of President HO CHI MINH and decided the organization of mourning ceremonies for the President in South Viet Nam.

A communique issued by the joint conference reads as follows :

At a time when the South Viet Nam armed forces and people are bringing into full play their extremely great and all-round victories, persistently and vigorously stepping up their war of resistance against US aggression, for national salvation in order to win final victory, a very sad tiding spread over both zones of our country. President HO CHI MINH, beloved leader of our nation, is no more.

Our entire people of South Viet Nam, all the officers and men of the PLAF and all the cadres and personnel of all branches at all levels feel immense grief and regret for the beloved leader of the nation, the highest leader of the Vietnamese revolution, who has devoted his whole life to the cause of national liberation, of reunification of the Fatherland, of bringing freedom and happiness to the entire people, of revolutionary struggle of the oppressed peoples in the world.

For more than half a century, President HO CHI MINH's life and activities were closely associated with our people's struggle for national liberation. As the highest leader of the Vietnamese revolution, he had taken the revolution in our country to one victory after another. He symbolizes the solidarity and unanimity of mind as steady as the Long Range and as solid as steel, of our entire nation, unity and single-mindedness which constitute a guarantee for all the victories already recorded by our people and those in the infinite future. He also symbolizes the dauntless will of our people in the present era. He has given high expression to the finest thoughts and sentiments of a revolutionary fighter. He has imparted to our cadres and fighters his shining revolutionary ideal, virtues and style of work.

As President HO CHI MINH has said, "South Viet Nam is always in my heart," it is the "flesh of the flesh, the blood of the blood of Viet Nam," "Viet Nam is one, the Vietnamese nation is one." Rivers may run dry and mountains wear out, but that truth can never be altered.

South Viet Nam has many times been deeply moved and strongly encouraged when hearing from the North, the big rear area of the country, the best regards with profound feelings and noble teachings sent by President HO CHI MINH to all our compatriots and fighters.

We regret not to have as yet completely achieved our national liberation struggle to welcome him in South Viet Nam, realizing thereby his dream and the dream of our cadres, fighters and people who, in response to his sacred Appeal, have fought heroically for dozens of years for the liberation of the South, defence of the North and reunification of the Fatherland.

In these hours of nation-wide grief and emotion, to show our boundless love, regret and grief for him, and in token of gratitude to him, the joint Conference of the South Viet Nam NFL, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government and the Advisory Council to the Government, decide to mourn President HO CHI MINH, the beloved leader of our nation for seven days from September 5 to 11, 1969, throughout South Viet Nam.

The Conference called on the entire people and all the officers and men of the People's Liberation Armed Forces of South Viet Nam to show their boundless grief and regret, and their gratitude to beloved leader of the entire nation by holding solemn mourning and memorial services for President HO CHI MINH, in all public offices and branches of activity in every locality of South Viet Nam under such forms as hoisting flags half-mast high, bearing mourning bands, setting up altars, holding obsequies at pagodas and temples, requiems at churches... during the funeral period.

The Conference decided to issue an Appeal to the entire people and all the officers and soldiers, cadres and personnel in all branchers, at all levels, to follow in these hours of grief the shining example set by President HO CHI MINH, to turn grief into strength, and resolutely to carry forward the glorious revolutionary cause of the President and the whole nation.

The Conference decided to suspend military attacks for 3 days during the funeral period. The PLAF Command will issue a detailed order in this connection.

It decided to set up a Funeral Committee to organize obsequies for President HO CHI MINH in South Viet Nam. The Committee comprises :

1 — Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation Central Committee, President of the Advisory Council to the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government, head of the Committee ;

2 — Architect Huynh Tan Phat, President of the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government, deputy-head ;

3 — Mr. Nguyen Van Linh, representative of the Viet Nam People's Revolutionary Party, deputy-head ;

4 — Mr. Tran Nam Trung, Minister of National Defence of the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government, representing the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces ;

5 — Professor Ton That Duong Ky, Secretary General of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces ;

6 — Mr. Vo Chi Cong, Vice-President of the South Viet Nam NFL Central Committee ;

7 — Mr. Tran Buu Kiem, Deputy-Secretary General of the South Viet Nam Democratic Party ;

8 — Professor Nguyen Van Hieu, Secretary General of the South Viet Nam Radical-Socialist Party ;

9 — Mme Duong Quynh Hoa, Deputy-Secretary General of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces ;

10 — Mr. Phan Xuan Thai, President of the South Viet Nam Liberation Federation of Trade Unions ;

11 — Mr. Nguyen Huu The, President of the South Viet Nam Liberation Peasants' Association ;

12 — Mr. Tran Bach Dang, President of the South Viet Nam Liberation Youth Union ;

13 — Mme Nguyen Thi Dinh, President of the South Viet Nam Liberation Women's Union ;

14 — Mr. Luu Huu Phuoc, President of the South Viet Nam Liberation Writers' and Artists' Association ;

15 — Professor Le Van Huan, President of the South Viet Nam Patriotic Teachers' Association ;

16 — Mr. Tan Duc, President of the South Viet Nam Patriotic and Democratic Journalists' Association ;

17 — Mr. Ho Huu Nhut, representative of university students ;

18 — Mr. Ibih Aleo, President of the Movement for the Autonomy of the Nationalities in the High Plateaux ;

19 — Mr. Huynh Cuong, representative of the Khmer nationality in South Viet Nam ;

20 — Superior Monk Thich Thien Hao, representative of patriotic Buddhists in South Viet Nam ;

21 — Mr. Joseph Marie Ho Hue Ba, representative of pious and patriotic Catholics in South Viet Nam.

22 Mr. Nguyen Van Ngoi, representative of the Cao Dai Religious Sect ;

23 — Mr. Huynh Van Tri, representative of the Hoa Hao Religious Sect ;

24 — Mr. Ngo Duc, representative of the South Viet Nam Liberation Chinese Residents' Union ;

25 — Professor Nguyen Van Chi Chairman of the People's Revolutionary Committee for the Saigon—Cholon—Gia Dinh area ; and

26 — Professor Le Van Giap, Chairman of the Saigon—Cholon—Gia Dinh Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces.

The Conference decided to appoint a delegation to attend President HO CHI MINH's funeral, comprising representatives of the South Viet Nam NFL, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government, the Advisory Council to the Government, many political parties, religious communities, and patriotic personalities.

President HO CHI MINH has passed away but He lives for ever in the hearts of our comrades, people and fighters and leaves in us the image of the Father of the nation who has dedicated his whole life to the cause of national liberation, of reunification of the Fatherland, of bringing freedom and happiness to the entire people, to the revolutionary cause of the oppressed peoples in the world.

Pledging ourselves to follow the path he has charted, the Conference called on all the armed forces, the entire people, and all cadres of all branches, at all levels, to unite millions as one, to turn grief into revolutionary activities, devote all their might and main, persistently and vigorously to step up the resistance to US aggression, and for national salvation, to "fight till the Yanks quit and the puppets topple," to liberate the South, defend the North and achieve the reunification of the Fatherland, thus contributing actively to the cause of national liberation and world peace, successfully realizing the most sacred objective of our people's fight at present and also the noble and beautiful dream of President HO CHI MINH.

JOHN SPRAGENS, JR.

The SVN people feel deep emotion, boundless grief and regret...

Following is the full text of the joint message sent by the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Advisory Council to the PRG to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the DRVN National Assembly, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front and the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party.

At a time when the South Viet Nam armed forces and people had won many great and all-round victories and were steadily advancing in the decisive stage of the sacred resistance to US aggression and for national salvation to gain final victory, a very sad news spread from Hanoi to both zones of Viet Nam. President Ho Chi Minh, the beloved leader of the nation, had passed away.

President Ho Chi Minh is no more. The South Vietnamese people, officers and fighters of the People's Liberation Armed Forces, and cadres and personnel at all levels of all branches feel deep emotion, boundless grief and regret at the passing away of their beloved leader, the highest leader of the Vietnamese revolution who had devoted all his life to the cause of national liberation, of reunification of the Fatherland, of bringing freedom and happiness to the entire Vietnamese people, and to the revolutionary pursuit of the oppressed peoples and nations throughout the world.

The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Advisory Council to the PRG and the entire South Viet Nam people express their boundless grief and regret to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the DRVN Assembly, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, and all our kith-and-kin and fighters in the North.

President Ho Chi Minh has passed away. That is a great loss for the Vietnamese nation, for the revolution in both zones of our country and also a great loss for the revolution of all oppressed peoples and nations the world over.

President Ho Chi Minh has passed away, But he lives for ever in the hearts and minds of all comrades, compatriots and fighters in both zones of Viet Nam.

For more than 60 years, his life and activities have been closely bound to the hard and long revolution of the Vietnamese people. He embodies the unshakable unity and singlemindedness of the Vietnamese nation, which are the firmest guarantees for all victories of the Vietnamese people in the past and in the future. He led the Vietnamese people in carrying out victoriously the August Revolution, bringing the former resistance war to glorious success with the historic victory of Dien Bien Phu, and was leading the entire Vietnamese people and their armed forces in waging a war of resistance against US aggression, for national salvation from one victory after another till complete victory.

He embodies the Vietnamese people's staunchness. He taught us? "...We would rather sacrifice everything than lose our country, or accept slavery," "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom." He had given a high expression to his ideology and sentiments as a Revolutionary, and to his heroic mettle as the Victor. "Be loyal to the Party and people, overcome all difficulties, fulfil all tasks and defeat all enemies", these are the high and fine qualities of the revolutionary which he has taught to our cadres and fighters.

He taught us to practise the qualities of "Industry, frugality, honesty and justice, public-mindedness and selflessness." Implementing his teachings always to persist in struggle, not to indulge in conceit over victories nor to feel low over failures, to unite, be of one mind and help one another and serve the people and the Fatherland wholeheartedly,

President Ho Chi Minh symbolizes the sacred sentiments of the entire Vietnamese nation. Speaking of South Viet Nam, he said: "South Viet Nam is the great front of the whole country," the Iron Citadel of the Fatherland", "the blood of the blood of Viet Nam, the flesh of the flesh of Viet Nam," "South Viet Nam is always in my heart," "Our country is one, our nation is one"... "the South and the North are of the same family", and "rivers may run dry and mountains wear out, but this truth will never change." How deeply moved and encouraged they were when the whole of South Viet Nam listened from the North, the great rear, to the praises and regards filled with profound sentiments and the noble recommendations from the beloved leader to all the people, cadres and fighters, old folks, the youth and children, the women, the national minorities, the war dead's families, the wounded and sick armymen, in short everybody.

In these moments of profound grief of the whole country, South Viet Nam regrets that it has not as yet achieved with thorough victory the cause of national liberation to welcome the President here, so as to satisfy his long-nurtured desire of all our compatriots, cadres and fighters who, in response to his sacred call, have been fighting heroically and persistently for more than 20 years now.

To be worthy of his contributions and solicitude and also to materialize his noble dream according to the path he had charted to the entire South Vietnamese people and their armed forces, we 14 million people of South Viet Nam pledged ourselves to our 17 bloodsealed Northern compatriots to unite millions as one man, turn our grief into strength to persevere in and push forward our resistance war with the determination to fight and to win till the total withdrawal of US troops and the collapse of the puppet administration and army, to liberate the South, defend the North and proceed to the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland.

Seven South Viet Nam delegations attend President Ho Chi Minh's obsequies in Hanoi

A general delegation and six separate delegations of South Viet Nam attend President HO CHI MINH's obsequies here.

These seven delegations were appointed at a joint meeting of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation Central Committee, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces Central Committee, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, and the Advisory Council to the Government.

The general delegation comprises:

Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam NFL Central Committee, President of the Advisory Council to the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government;

— Dinh Aleo, Vice-President of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam NFL Central Committee, President of the Movement for the Autonomy of the Nationalities in the High Plateaux, member of the Advisory Council to the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government;

— Nguyen Van Ngoi, member of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam NFL Central Committee, Chief Priest of the Tien Thien Sect of the Cao Dai Church;

— Joseph Marie Ho Hue Ba, member of the South Viet Nam NFL Central Committee, President of the South Viet Nam Association of Pious and Patriotic Catholics;

— Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, Chairman of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces Central Committee, Vice-President of the Advisory Government;

— Superior Bonze Thich Don Hau, Vice-Chairman of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces Central Committee, and member of the Advisory Council to the Government;

— Mme Nguyen Dinh Chi, Vice-Chairman of the Hue Committee of the VNANDPF, member of the Advisory Council to the Government, Vice-President of the Thua Thien-Hue People's Revolutionary Committee;

— Nguyen Doa, Vice-President of the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government;

— Prof. Nguyen Van Hieu, Secretary General of the South Viet Nam Radical Socialist Party;

— Nguyen Van Linh, Deputy-Secretary General of the Viet Nam People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee;

— Truong Cong Thuan, member of the Viet Nam People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee;

— Nguyen Minh Chau, a high-ranking cadre of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces.

Miss Kan Lich, Heroine of the South Viet Nam PLAF.

— Nguyen Minh Tua, Hero of the South Viet Nam PLAF; and

— Mme Nguyen Thi Thanh Loan, member of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam Liberation Women's Union.

The 6 separate delegations were appointed by their respective organizations. They are:

1 — *The fourteen-member Delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation* is led by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of its Central Committee and President of the Advisory Council to the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government.

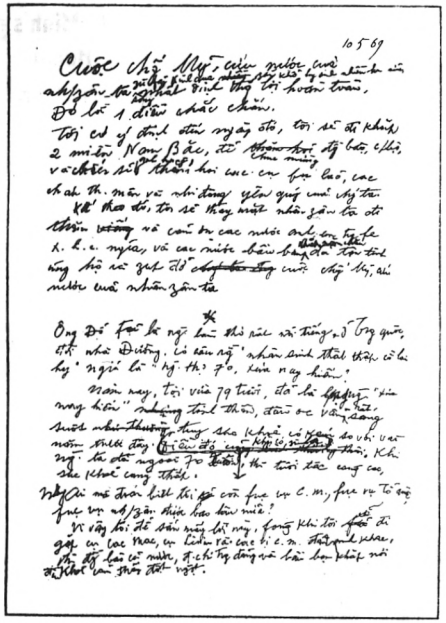
2 — *The eight-member delegation of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces* is led by Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, Chairman of its Central Committee, and Vice-President of the Advisory Council to the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government.

3 — *The five-member delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary* Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam is headed by Nguyen Doa, Vice-President of the Government, and includes:

— Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, SVNR Minister for Foreign Affairs, member of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, and Head of the SVNR delegation to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam and

— Nguyen Van Tien, Head of the Special Representation of the SVNR to the DRVN, member of the Central Committee of the South

(Continued on page 14)



Will of President HO CHI MINH

IN the patriotic struggle against US aggression, we shall have indeed to undergo more difficulties and sacrifices, but we are sure to win total victory.

This is an absolute certainty.

It is my intention when that day comes, to make a tour of both North and South to congratulate our heroic compatriots, cadres and combatants; to pay visit to our old people, our beloved youths and children.

Then, on behalf of our people, I will go to the fraternal countries of the socialist camp, and friendly countries in the whole world, and thank them for their wholehearted support and assistance to our people's patriotic struggle against US aggression.

TU-FU, the well-known Chinese poet of the T'ang epoch, wrote: "In all times, few are those who reach the age of 70".

This year, with my 79 years, I count among those "few" people; still, my mind is lucid, though my health has somewhat weakened in comparison with previous years. When one is on the wrong side of 70, health deteriorates with age. This is no wonder.

But who can forecast for how long I can continue to serve the revolution, the Fatherland and the people?

That is the reason why I leave these few lines in anticipation of the day when I go and join venerable Karl Marx, Lenin and other revolutionary elders; in this way, our compatriots in the whole country, the comrades in the Party, and our friends in the world will have no surprise.

FIRST I WILL SPEAK ABOUT THE PARTY: Thanks to its close unity and total dedication to the working class, the people and the Fatherland, our Party has been able, since its founding, to unite, organize and lead our people in an ardent struggle, and conduct them from victory to victory.

Unity is an extremely precious tradition of our Party and people. All comrades, from the Central Committee down to the cell, must preserve the union and unity of mind in the Party as the apple of their eyes.

Within the Party, to achieve broad democracy and to practise self-criticism and criticism regularly and seriously is the best way to consolidate and develop the union and unity of mind in the Party. Genuine affection should prevail among all comrades.

Ours is a Party in power. Each Party member, each cadre must be deeply imbued with revolutionary morality, and show industry, thrift, integrity, uprightness, total dedication to the public cause, exemplary selflessness. Our Party should preserve its entire purity, it should remain worthy of its role as the leader and a very loyal servant of the people.

THE WORKING YOUTH UNION MEMBERS AND OUR YOUNG PEOPLE as a whole are of excellent nature, ardent to volunteer for vanguard tasks, undeterred by difficulties, striving for progress. The Party must give much attention to their education in revolutionary morality, and train them into continuators of the building of socialism, both "red" and "expert".

Training and educating the revolutionary generation to come is a highly important and necessary task.

OUR LABOURING PEOPLE, both in the plains and in the mountain areas, have for ages suffered hardships, feudal and colonial oppression and exploitation; furthermore, they have experienced many years of war.

Yet, our people have shown great heroism, great courage, ardent enthusiasm, and are very hardworking. They have always followed the Party since it came into being, and they have always been loyal to it.

The Party must work out a good plan for economic and cultural development with a view to ceaselessly raising the living standard of the people.

THE RESISTANCE WAR AGAINST US AGGRESSION may drag out. Our compatriots may have to undergo new sacrifices in terms of property and human lives. In any case, we must be resolved to fight against the US aggressors till total victory.

Our rivers, our mountains, our men will always remain,

The Yanks defeated, we will build our country ten times more beautiful.

No matter what difficulties and hardships may lie ahead, our people are sure to win total victory. The US imperialists will have to pull out. Our Fatherland will be reunified. Our compatriots in the North and in the South will be re-united under the same roof. Our country will have the signal honour of being a small nation which, through a heroic struggle, has defeated two big imperialisms — the French and the American — and made a worthy contribution to the national liberation movement.

ABOUT THE WORLD COMMUNIST MOVEMENT: Having dedicated my whole life to the cause of the revolution, the more I am proud to see the growth of the international communist and workers' movement, the more deeply I am grieved at the dissensions that are dividing the fraternal parties!

I wish that our Party will do its best to contribute effectively to the restoration of unity among the fraternal parties on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, in a way consonant to the requirements of heart and reason.

I am sure that the fraternal parties and countries will unite again.

ABOUT PERSONAL MATTERS: In all my life, I have, wholeheartedly and with all my forces, served the Fatherland, the revolution and the people. Now if I should depart from this world, there is nothing that I am sorry to have done, I regret only not to be able to serve longer and more.

After my passing away, great funerals should be avoided in order not to waste the time and money of the people.

FINALLY, to the whole people, the whole Party, the whole army, to my nephews and nieces, youths and children, I leave behind my boundless affection.

I also convey my fraternal greetings to the comrades, friends, youths and children in the world.

My ultimate wish is that our whole Party and people, closely united in the struggle, build a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic and prosperous Viet Nam, and make a worthy contribution to the world revolution.

Hanoi, May 10. 1969.

Ho Chi Minh

In the patriotic struggle against US aggression, we shall have indeed to undergo more difficulties and sacrifices, but we are sure to win total victory.

This is an absolute certainty.

(Will of President HO CHI MINH)

⊙ Above: *President Ho Chi Minh's autograph*

⊙ Below: *Hundreds of thousands of Hanoians and representatives of various areas file past the President's catafalque.* Photos: VNA

South Viet Nam Delegation at the President HO CHI MINH's funeral

The delegation of South Viet Nam led by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation Central Committee and President of the Advisory Council to the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government, arrived in Hanoi on September 6, to attend the President Ho Chi Minh's funeral.

The delegation was welcomed upon its arrival by Truong Chinh, member of the Political Bureau of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee, Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee; Nguyen Duy Trinh, member of the Political Bureau of the VNWPCC, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister; Le Thanh Nghi, member of the Political Bureau of the VNWPCC, Vice-Premier; Hoang Quoc Viet, member of the VNWPCC, member of the Presidium of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee; Tran Huu Duc, member of the VNWPCC, Minister of the Premier's Office; Bui Quang Tao, member of the VNWPCC, Minister of Building; many other members of the VNWPCC and the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee, and many high-ranking members of the Party, Government and the Fatherland Front.

Lawyer Chairman Trinh Dinh Thao, Head of the delegation of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces to attend the President Ho Chi Minh's obsequies, and Nguyen Phu Soai, Acting-Head of the Special Representation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam in the DRVN, were also present.

Chairman Truong Chinh and President Nguyen Huu Tho stood hugging each other for a long moment, weeping bitterly over the death of President Ho Chi Minh.

Before getting into the car which took them to the Government's Guest-house, Chairman Truong Chinh and President Nguyen Huu Tho reviewed the guard of honour.

The ceremony to pay respects to the memory of President Ho Chi Minh began in Hanoi at 7 a.m. September 6 at the Ba Dinh meeting hall across the historic Ba Dinh Square where the President proclaimed the independence of Viet Nam 24 years ago.

With immense grief, the general delegation of South Viet Nam, coming from the great front to attend President Ho Chi Minh's funeral laid a wreath with the inscription: "BOUNDLESS REGRET FOR PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH, THE FATHER OF THE ENTIRE VIETNAMESE NATION", and paid respects to the memory of the President, who always turned his thoughts to the beloved South.

At 9 a.m., the delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam headed by Nguyen Doa, Vice-President of the Government, stepped into the hall with a wreath bearing the inscription "ETERNAL GRATITUDE TO GREAT PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH".

Then, the delegations of the South Viet Nam NFL headed by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the SVNNFL Central Committee and President of the Advisory Council to the SVNR PRG laid in front of President Ho's a wreath with these words "UNCLE HO LIVES FOR EVER IN THE HEARTS OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE".

The delegation of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces was led by Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, Chairman of the VNANDPF Central Committee and Vice-President of the Advisory Council to the SVNR PRG.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the Provisional Revolutionary Government and the Advisory Council leading members pay their last respects to the President Ho Chi Minh

The delegation of the Viet Nam People's Revolutionary Party was headed by Nguyen Van Linh, Deputy Secretary General of the Party's Central Committee.

The delegation of the Minority Nationalities was led by Ibih Aleo, Vice - President of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam NFL Central Committee, President of the Movement for the Autonomy of the Nationalities in the High Plateaux, laid a wreath with this inscription "UNCLE HO'S TEACHINGS REMAIN FOR EVER IN THE MIND OF THE NATIONALITIES IN THE SOUTH".

Wearing green uniforms and water-lentil-brimmed canvas hats, the members of the delegation of the SVN PLAF, stood in silent respects and paid the last homage to Uncle Ho.

South Viet Nam mourns President HO CHI MINH

The Saigon – Cholon People's Revolutionary Committee has expressed its profound regret for President HO CHI MINH, "the Father of the Nation."

In a message addressed to the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee, the DRVN National Assembly Standing Committee, the DRVN Government, and the Hanoi Administrative Committee, it said:

"With their boundless love for and eternal gratitude to President HO CHI MINH, the People of Saigon – Cholon will march forward shoulder to shoulder with the people across the country, and will fight, as President HO CHI MINH has told them, till "the Yankees quit and the puppets topple," as a contribution to the building of an independent, democratic, peaceful and neutral South Viet Nam, and the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland."

Messages of condolences have also been sent to North Viet Nam by the South Viet Nam Liberation Women's Union, the South Viet Nam Liberation Writers' Association, the South Viet Nam Association for Protection of Women and Children, etc, all making the solemn pledge to implement to the full every behest of the late President.

The Central Trung Bo National Front for Liberation Committee, the Tri-Thien-Hue Committee of the NFL, the Tri—Thien—Hue Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party, the Tri—Thien—Hue, PLAF Command, etc, have separately met to prepare memorial services to President HO CHI MINH. The Central Trung Bo NFL Committee has also issued an appeal to the people in the region, urging them to turn their sorrow into revolutionary deeds by dashing forward with might and main to win many and yet greater victories over the US – puppets.

Funeral oration

of the CC of the VNWP read by Le Duan, first secretary, at the solemn ceremony in memory of President HO CHI MINH

Compatriots and combatants thoughout the country,
Comrades and friends,

Our beloved and venerated President HO CHI MINH is no more!

This is a tremendous loss! Boundless, indeed, is our grief!

Our people and Party have lost a leader of genius and a great teacher.

The international communist movement, the national liberation movement and all progressive mankind have lost a prominent fighter, a staunch comrade-in-arms so dear to all.

Our compatriots and combatants in the whole country mourn his passing away with boundless grief. Our brothers and friends all over the world share our deep sorrow.

FOR over 60 years, from his young age till his last moment, President HO CHI MINH dedicated his whole life to the revolutionary cause of our people and of the world's peoples. His was a glorious life, full of hardships and sacrifices, extremely lofty and rich, pure and beautiful.

With his ardent patriotism, President HO CHI MINH soon came to Marxism-Leninism, in which He found the light showing the way to national salvation. He was the first Vietnamese to creatively apply Marxism-Leninism to the conditions of our country, and to show the way for the Vietnamese revolution to advance step by step, from victory to victory.

President HO CHI MINH was the founder, leader, and educator of our Party, the builder of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the national united front, the beloved father of the Vietnamese people's armed forces. He was the soul, the brilliant banner that led our entire Party, our entire people, our entire army to unite as one man, to fight valiantly, and to write down the most glorious pages in the history of our Fatherland.

Our nation, our people, our mountains and rivers have given birth to President HO CHI MINH, the great national hero, who, in turn, has covered them with glory.

HE represents the quintessence of the Vietnamese nation. He is a symbol of the staunch, indomitable will shown by the Vietnamese people throughout four thousand years of history. "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom." "We prefer to make any sacrifice rather than lose independence and be slaves." Such is the pressing patriotic call of the Fatherland at this moment, such is the injunction by our forefathers from the depths of time, the sacred duty of ours to all generations to come. He said: "Viet Nam is one, the Vietnamese people are one," "The South is the blood of Vietnamese blood, the flesh of Vietnamese flesh." In his life-time, He always followed closely each and every step of the revolution for the liberation of the South day and night. He thought of the southern compatriots and combatants with boundless love.

Parting from Him for ever, we swear:

WE WILL FOR EVER CARRY ALOFT THE BANNER OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, RESOLVED TO FIGHT AND TO DEFEAT THE US AGGRESSORS, TO LIBERATE THE SOUTH, TO DEFEND THE NORTH, TO REUNIFY THE COUNTRY WITH A VIEW TO MEETING HIS DESIRE

The greatest desire of President HO CHI MINH was to see the Fatherland liberated, and the people happy. He said: «I have only one desire, a most earnest one—to achieve complete independence for our country, complete freedom for our people, and opportunities for every compatriot to have enough food and clothing, and education.» He also said: «The North must advance to socialism.»

During his life-time, He gave all his warm kindness to the compatriots, young and old, men and women, children, those in the North and those in the South, those in the plains and those in the mountains. Departing from this world, He "left behind boundless affection to the whole people, the whole Party, the whole army, to youths and children."

Parting from Him, we swear:

WE WILL STRIVE ON WITH ALL OUR FORCES TO ACHIEVE THE LOFTY IDEAL OF SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM THAT HE HAS MAPPED OUT FOR OUR WORKING CLASS AND PEOPLE, TO BRING PROSPERITY TO OUR COUNTRY AND HAPPINESS TO OUR COMPATRIOTS

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH gave constant attention, and took great pains to build our Party into a united bloc. He said: «The strength of the Party lies in its unity.» He was the incarnation of national unity, of North - South brotherhood. He said: «Unity, unity, great unity. Success, success, great success.» He always advised us to preserve and enhance our traditions of unity and our love for our compatriots and comrades.

Parting from Him, we swear:

WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO PRESERVE THE UNITY OF THE PARTY AS THE APPLE OF OUR EYES, TO INCREASE THE COMBATIVITY OF THE PARTY AS THE CORE OF THE NATIONAL UNITED BLOC, TO ENSURE TOTAL VICTORY FOR THE REVOLUTIONARY CAUSE OF THE VIETNAMESE WORKING CLASS AND NATION

President HO CHI MINH was a lofty symbol of genuine patriotism closely combined with proletarian internationalism. His heart and mind were dedicated both to the Vietnamese nation, and to the proletariat and the oppressed peoples in the whole world. As a faithful disciple of Karl Marx and Lenin, President HO CHI MINH was not only a great patriot but also an outstanding fighter in the international communist movement and the national liberation movement of the 20th century. President HO CHI MINH often taught us to preserve international solidarity, for the great cause of the Vietnamese revolution and for our lofty duty to the world revolution.

Parting from Him, we swear:

WE WILL CONSTANTLY ENHANCE THE PURE INTERNATIONALIST SENTIMENTS AS SHOWN BY PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH, DO OUR UTMOST TO CONTRIBUTE TO RESTORING AND DEVELOPING SOLIDARITY AND UNITY IN THE SOCIALIST CAMP AND AMONG THE FRATERNAL PARTIES ON THE BASIS OF MARXISM - LENINISM AND PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM; TO TIGHTEN SOLIDARITY AND FRIENDSHIP AMONG THE INDO-CHINESE PEOPLES; TO EXTEND WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT TO THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT OF OTHER PEOPLES, TO MAKE ACTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STRUGGLE OF THE WORLD'S PEOPLES FOR PEACE, NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM

ALL the great of President HO CHI MINH is an ever radiating example of staunch revolutionary mettle, spirit of independence, deep love for the people, and total selflessness, modesty and plain manners. President HO CHI MINH taught us: "Our Party should preserve its entire purity, it should remain worthy of its role as the leader and a very loyal servant of the people.".

Parting from Him, we swear:

WE WILL ALL OUR LIFE LEARN FROM HIS VIRTUES AND STYLE OF WORK, AND ENHANCE REVOLUTIONARY MORALITY TO BRAVE HARDSHIPS AND SACRIFICES, TO TEMPER OURSELVES INTO FIGHTERS LOYAL TO THE PARTY AND THE PEOPLE, WORTHY OF BEING HIS COMRADES, HIS DISCIPLES. FOLLOWING HIS EXAMPLE, OUR ENTIRE PEOPLE AND YOUTH PLEDGE TO DO THEIR BEST TO STEEL THEMSELVES INTO NEW MEN, MASTERS OF THEIR COUNTRY, MASTERS OF THE NEW SOCIETY, AND TO CARRY HIS EVER VICTORIOUS BANNER TO THE FINAL GOAL

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH is no more! But He has left us an extremely precious legacy. This is the HO CHI MINH epoch, the most brilliant one in our nation's glorious history. This is the era of independence and freedom of the fatherland, the era of socialism in our country.

The entire Vietnamese people, each Vietnamese will engrave for ever in the heart his immense contributions.

Before President HO CHI MINH'S soul, we pledge to remain all our life faithful to Him, to strive with all our heart and energy, united into an iron-like bloc, with dedication, resolved to fulfil our lofty duty for the independence and freedom of the Fatherland, for the happiness of the people, and to make a worthy contribution to the revolutionary cause of the world's peoples.

President HO CHI MINH is no more! But He is always there to guide us. We still feel Him constantly at our side. For we continue to follow his path, we continue his great work. For He will live for ever with our rivers and mountains, his name and image are ever more deeply engraved in the heart and mind of each of us.

Dear comrades and compatriots,

PARTING from us, Uncle Ho has left to our Party, to all compatriots and combatants in the two zones North and South, a historic will. These are his ultimate recommendations, the sentiments and confidence He felt towards us, the present generation and the generations to come.

Let us make ourselves still worthier of Him!

Let us contain our grief, struggle valiantly, eagerly march forward, flatten all obstacles and difficulties, resolved to defeat the US aggressors completely, to build socialism successfully, and to carry out the oath of honour we are taking in this sacred moment of parting!

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH, THE GREAT LEADER AND BELOVED TEACHER OF OUR PARTY AND PEOPLE, WILL LIVE FOR EVER!

Grand ceremony to mourn President HO CHI MINH in Hanoi

Amidst boundless grief for the entire Workers' Party and people of Viet Nam, a grand ceremony to mourn President Ho Chi Minh was held here on morning September 9, 1969 in the historic Ba Dinh Square where twenty four years ago the President read out the Declaration of Independence, giving birth to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

In the centre, above the grand stands, hung a huge black-bordered portrait of President Ho Chi Minh, in front of which stood a big incense burner. Above the portrait was the national emblem of the DRVN, flanked on either side by the Party flag and the national flag with black bands tied to them. On one side of the portrait was the big slogan "PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH, GREAT LEADER OF THE VIETNAME-E WORKING CLASS AND NATION, EMINENT FIGHTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT, WILL LIVE FOR EVER IN THE HEARTS OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND OF OPPRESSED PEOPLES IN THE WORLD!".

On the other side was the slogan "Let our entire Party, all our armed forces, and our people as a whole, march forward valiantly to materialize the ideal of President Ho Chi Minh, completely defeat the US aggressors, liberate the South, successfully build socialism in the North, reunify the Fatherland, build a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic, prosperous and powerful Viet Nam."

Two other big slogans lining either side of the grand stand were: "BOUNDLESS REGRET FOR RESPECTED AND BELOVED PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH!", and "ETERNAL GRATITUDE TO GREAT PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH!".

By daybreak, 100,000 Hanoians and other people of all strata – workers, peasants, armymen, public servants, intellectuals, students, South Vietnamese cadres regrouped to the North under the 1954 Geneva Agreements, Chinese residents, representatives of the provinces, regions, and cities of North Viet Nam – had already gathered in well-knit formations in Ba Dinh Square to attend the mourning ceremony.

With them, around one million public servants and other people in the city quarters, suburban villages, enterprises, public offices, schools, hospitals, and public parks, stood looking in the direction of Ba Dinh, to mourn for the President. Meanwhile, people in their thousands continued streaming toward the Ba Dinh meeting hall to pay respects to the deceased leader.

All the members of the Central Committee of the Party, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, the Council of Ministers, the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, and the members of the State Funeral Committee, were present on the grand stands.

The ceremony was attended by the general delegation and six other delegations of South Viet Nam whose organizations were represented at the joint conference of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam NFL, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Advisory Council, which had come to Hanoi to attend President Ho Chi Minh's funeral. Nguyen Van Tien, Head of the Special Representation of the Republic of South Viet Nam, and all the members of the Representation, were present.

Also present were 34 foreign delegations.

Present on the Presidium of the ceremony were Le Duan, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party; Ton Duc Thang, member of the Party C.C., acting President of the DRVN and President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front; Truong Chinh, member of the Political Bureau of the Party C.C. and Chairman of the DRVN National Assembly Standing Committee; Pham Van Dong, member of the Political Bureau of the Party C.C. and Premier; Le Duc Tho, member of the Political Bureau of the Party C.C. and Head of the Organizational Board of the Party C.C.; Vo Nguyen Giap, member of the Political Bureau of the Party C.C., Vice-Premier, Minister of National Defence and General, C-in-C of the Viet Nam People's Army; Nguyen Duy Trinh, member of the Political Bureau of the Party C.C., Vice-Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs; Le Thanh Nghi, member of the Political Bureau of the Party C.C. and Vice-Premier; Hoang Van Hoan, member of the Political Bureau of the Party C.C. and Vice-Chairman of the DRVN National Assembly Standing Committee; Pham Hung, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Party C.C. and Minister of Public Security; Van Tien Dung, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Party C.C. and Colonel-General, General Chief-of-staff of the VNPA; Le Van Luong, To Huu and Hoang Anh, Secretaries of the Party C.C.; Nguyen Van Tran, Secretary of the Party C.C. and Secretary of the Hanoi's Party Committee; Nguyen Con, Secretary of the Party C.C., Vice-Premier and Chairman of the State Planning Commission; Xuan Thuy, Secretary of the Party C.C., Minister and Head of the DRVN Government delegation to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam; Nguyen Luong Bang, member of the Party C.C. and Head of the Control Board of the Party C.C.; Hoang Quoc Viet, member of the Party C.C. and President of the Viet Nam Federation of Trade Unions; Chu Van Tan, member of the Party C.C., Vice-Chairman of the DRVN National Assembly Standing Committee and Chairman of the nationalities' Committee of the National Assembly; Tran Dang Khoa, Vice-Chairman of the DRVN National Assembly Standing Committee; Nguyen Xien, Vice-Chairman of the DRVN National Assembly Standing Committee and Secretary General of the Viet Nam Socialist Party; Nghiem Xuan Yem, Secretary General of the Viet Nam Democratic Party and member of the Presidium of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee; and Phan Ke Toai, Vice-Premier.

Also present were the delegation of South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation led by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the C.C. of the SVNNFL and Chairman of the Advisory Council to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the SVNR; the delegation of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces led by Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, Chairman of its Central Committee and Vice-President of the Advisory Council to the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government, the delegation of the PRG of the SVNR led by Nguyen Doa, Vice-President of the Government; the delegation of the Viet Nam People's Revolutionary Party led by Nguyen Van Linh, Deputy Secretary General of the Party's Central Committee; the delegation of the Minority Nationalities led by Ibih Aleo, Vice-President of the SVNNFLCC, President of the Movement for Autonomy of the Nationalities in the High Plateaux and member of the Advisory Council to the SVNRPRG; the delegation of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces led by Nguyen Minh Chau, a cadre of the PLAF, and Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, Foreign Minister of the PRG of the SVNR and Head of the SVNRPRG delegation to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. Also present on the Presidium were the following foreign delegations: Sandech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, Head of the national delegation of the Kingdom of Cambodia; A.N. Kosygin, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Head of the Soviet Party and Government delegation, Li Hsien-nien, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Vice-Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Head of the Chinese Party and Government delegation; Choi Yong Kun, member of the Presidium of the Political Committee of the Korea Workers' Party Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of Korea, Head of the Korean Party and Government delegation; Prince Souphanouvong, Head of the delegation of the Central Committee of the Laotian Patriotic Front; Erich Mucken-berger, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, Head of the Party and Government delegation of the GDR; François Billoux, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the French Communist Party, Head of the FCP delegation; Major Juan Almeida Bosque, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, Vice-Minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, Head of the Cuban Party and Government delegation; Ion Gheorghe Maurer, member of the Standing Presidium of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Communist Party, and Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Head of the Rumanian Party and Government delegation; Rita Marko, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Albanian Party of Labour, Vice-President of the Presidium of the National Assembly of the PRA, Head of the Albanian Party and Government delegation; Lodge Sowinski, member of the Political Bureau of the Polish United Workers' Party Central Committee, Vice-President of the State Council of the PPR, Head of the Polish Party and Government delegation; Lajos Feher, member of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party and Vice-Chairman of the Revolutionary Workers' and Peasants' Government, Head of the Hungarian Party and Government delegation; Zhivko Zhivkov, member of the Political Bureau of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee, First Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PRB, Head of the Bulgarian Party and Government delegation; Petr Colotka, member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and Premier of the Government of the Slovak Socialist Republic, Head of the Slovak Socialist Republic, Head of the Czechoslovak Party and Government delegation. D. Molomjants, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, and Head of the Mongolian Party and Government delegation; Sanzo Nosaka, Chairman of the Communist Party of Japan, representing the Communist Party of Japan; R. Berlinguer, Assistant-Secretary General of the Italian Communist Party, Head of the delegation of the Italian Communist Party; Gus Hall, Secretary General of the communist Party of the United States, representing the Communist Party of the United States; John Gollan, Secretary General of the British Communist Party, representing the British Communist Party; Paul Verges, Secretary General of the Reunion Communist Party, representing the Reunion Communist Party; Khamsouk Keola, Head of the delegation of the Committee for Alliance of Patriotic Neutralist Forces of Laos; Ernest Claude N'dalla, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Congo (B) to the DRVN, representative of the Government of the Republic of Congo (B); Jean Sainteny, representative of the French Government; Pavisevic, Vice-President of Yugoslavia, Head of the Yugoslav Government delegation; Kamal Ri, Head of the delegation of the United Arab Republic Government; Vijaya Singh, Minister for External Affairs Head of the Indian Government delegation; Orzan Berno, representative of the Kingdom of Sweden; K.I. Kaiser, Ambassador, Head of the Paki-tan Government delegation; Salim, representative of the Tanzanian President; Boediardjo, Head of the delegation of the Indonesian Government; Yaya Diara, envoy of the Malian President; Ansou Kamano, envoy of the Guinean President; Mohamed Aldalluchi, envoy of the Mauritanian President; and Pridi Banomyong, ex Regent of Thailand.

At 7.30 sharp, the mourning ceremony began. The army band played the national anthem and the tune of "Liberate the South".

President HO CHI MINH's catafalque in Ba Dinh Hall with State and Party leaders keeping vigil round the clock around it.

In a sorrowful and solemn atmosphere, Le Duan, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, read the funeral oration of the VNWPCC expressing the boundless love and regret of the entire Party and people toward President Ho Chi Minh.

Tears welled up in the eyes of all the participants who stood looking with sorrow love and regret at the portrait of President Ho Chi Minh, the beloved leader of the Party and nation who had devoted all his life to the revolutionary cause of the people of Viet Nam and the world, brought glory to the Vietnamese nation, to the rivers and mountains of Viet Nam.

Parting from the President, all the people swore with Le Duan: (Photo on page 12)

– We will for ever carry aloft the banner of national independence, resolved to fight and to defeat the US aggressors, to liberate the South, to defend the North, to reunify the country with a view to meeting his desire.

– We will strive on with all our forces to achieve the lofty ideal of socialism and communism that he has mapped out for our working class and people to bring prosperity to our country and happiness to our compatriots.

– We will do our best to preserve the unity of the Party as the apple of our eyes, to increase the combativity of the Party as the core of national united bloc, to ensure total victory for the revolutionary cause of the Vietnamese working class and nation.

We will constantly enhance the pure internationalist sentiments as shown by President Ho Chi Minh, do our utmost to contribute to restoring and developing solidarity and unity in the socialist camp and among the fraternal parties on the basis of Marxism–Leninism and proletarian internationalism; to tighten solidarity and friendship among the Indo-Chinese peoples; to extend wholehearted support to the revolutionary movement of other peoples, to make active contributions to the struggle of the world's peoples for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

Every time Le Duan read out an oath, hundred of thousands of arms were raised and the whole Square resounded with the steel-like words "We swear it."

Le Duan then read out the Will of President Ho Chi Minh. Everybody with extremely deep emotion listened word by word to the latest recommendations of President Ho Chi Minh, to the expression of his love for and confidence in the Vietnamese people at present and in the future generations. The crowd which had been containing its so row, now burst into tears, especially women and children, as Le Duan finished reading the Will of President Ho Chi Minh.

Then, suppressing their pain, the people bowed with emotion and respect before the memory of President Ho Chi Minh, their grim faces spelling out their resolve to materialize the will of the President, materialize at all costs his ultimate wish that "Our whole Party and people, closely united in struggle, build a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic and prosperous Viet Nam, and make a worthy contribution to the world revolution."

The band played the tunes of the "Internationale" and the "Hymn to Our Leader"

To the tune of the "Funeral Hymn · Hon Tu Si (Souls of Dead Fighters,") the Party and State leaders of the DRVN, the people, cadres and armymen, and the members of the foreign delegations bowed with emotion and respect to the memory of President HO CHI MINH, the genial leader and great educator of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, of the Vietnamese nation, and outstanding fighter, a staunch and close comrade-in-arms of the international communist movement the national liberation movement and the whole progressive mankind.

21 gun salvoes shook the air. Squads of People's Air Force jet fighters in V-shape formations flew past Ba Dinh Square to salute the late President.

At the end of the ceremony, the Party and State leaders talked with the children, advising them to realize well the teachings of Uncle Ho.

The attendants left Ba Dinh Square with boundless regret but with the iron determination to carry out the Appeal of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee to translate sorrow into revolutionary deeds, thus materializing successfully the ideal of President HO CHI MINH, resolutely defeat the US aggressors, liberate the South, defend the North, and advance toward the peaceful reunification of the country.

Last respects to President HO CHI MINH in South Viet Nam

AT 8. 30 a.m. on September 8, in the liberated zone of South Viet Nam, the NFL Central Committee, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Advisory Council to the PRG solemnly paid their last respects to President HO CHI MINH, the much respected and beloved leader of the Vietnamese people and supreme leader of Vietnamese revolution.

President HUYNH TAN PHAT and Vice-President NGUYEN VAN KIET leading a delegation of the PRG SVNR placed the first wreath on the altar with a portrait of President HO CHI MINH. After them, Dr. PHUNG VAN CUNG, Vice-President of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee, Colonel Vo Van Mon, member of the NFL Central Committee and Pharmacist Ho Thu, Deputy-Secretary General of the NFL Central Committee, — the name of the NFL Central Committee, — Professor Ton That Duong Ky, Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, Writer Thanh Nghi, Deputy-Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam ANDPF and Le Hieu Dang, Deputy-Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam ANDPF, in the name of the delegation of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam ANDPF, — and Lucien Pham Ngoc Hung, member of the Advisory Council to the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam, in the name of the delegation of the Advisory Council, successively placed wreaths on the altar.

The representatives of the 14 million South Vietnamese mournfully paid their last respects to President HO CHI MINH. Thinking of his immense services to the country, they pledged themselves to follow the revolutionary path he had struck out for the entire Vietnamese people.

The NFL Central Committee, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Advisory Council also held a solemn memorial ceremony. Were present President Huynh Tan Phat and Vice-President Nguyen Van Kiet of the PRGSVNR representing the PRGSVNR — Dr. Phung Van Cung, Vice-President of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee, Colonel Vo Van Mon, member of the NFL Central Committee and Pharmacist Ho Thu, Deputy-Secretary general of the NFL Central Committee, representing the NFL Central Committee, — Professor Ton That Duong Ky, Secretary general of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, Writer Thanh Nghi, Deputy-Secretary general of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam ANDPF and Le Hieu Dang, Deputy-Secretary general of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam ANDPF, representing the delegation of the Viet Nam ANDPF, — Lucien Pham Ngoc Hung, member of the Advisory Council to the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam, representing the delegation of the Advisory Council, — Mme Nguyen Bach Tuyet, member of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam Liberation Women's Union, representing the delegation of the SVNLWU, — Le Van Thanh, Vice-President of the South Viet Nam Liberation Youth Union, representing the delegation of the SVNLYU, — Nguyen Huu The, President of the South Viet Nam Liberation Peasants' Association, and Nguyen Van Sieu, member of the Central Committee of the SVNLPA, representing the delegation of the SVNLPA, — Cuu Long, member of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam Liberation Federation of Trade Unions, representing the delegation of the SVNLFTU, — the Venerable Thich Thien Hao, President of the South Viet Nam Patriotic Buddhists' Association, representing the delegation of religious communities in South Viet Nam, — Ung ngoc Ky, Deputy-Secretary general of the Central Committee of the Democratic Party in South Viet Nam, Professor Le Van Tha, permanent member of the Central Committee of the Radical Socialist Party, — Professor Nguyen Ngoc Thuong, Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, professor Le Van Chi and Ho Huu Nhat, Vice-Ministers of Education and Youth, — Dr. Duong Quynh Hoa and Professor Bui Thi Me, Minister and Vice-Minister of Public Health, Social Affairs and War Invalids, Journalist Luu Hieu Phuong and writer Lu Phuong, Minister and Vice-Minister of Information and Culture, — Engineer Cao Van Bon and Nguyen Van Trieu, Minister and Vice-Minister of Finance and Economy of the PRG of the SVNR, — Ngo Duc, representing the Preparatory Committee of the South Viet Nam Liberation Chinese Nationals' Union, — Mme Nguyen Thi Dinh, Deputy-Commander of the South Viet Nam PLAF, — representing the delegation of the PLAF, — Professor Nguyen Van Chi, President, Huynh Van Nghi and Mme Pham Thi Yen, Vice-Presidents of the Saigon — Cholon — Giadinh People's Revolutionary Committee, representing the delegation of the Saigon — Cholon — Giadinh PRG, — Nguyen Thanh Khan, representing the delegation of the NFL in Central Nam Bo, — Nguyen Van Thau, representing the delegation of the NFL in Eastern Nam Bo, — Nguyen Thong Binh, representing the delegation of the NFL in Southernmost Trung Bo — many cadres, combatants and local people.

A PLAF guard of honour stood on either side of the portrait of the late President before which incense was burning. The delegates came to pay homage to the much respected and beloved leader.

After the opening speech by Nguyen Huu The, President of the Liberation Peasants' Association and member of the South Viet Nam Committee for the organization of the memorial ceremony, Professor Ton That Duong Ky, Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Viet Nan Alliance of the National, Democratic and Peace Forces, read out the joint message of the Central Committee of the NFL, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Advisory Council to the PRGSVNR to the Government and the National Assembly of the DRV, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front and the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party. The message told the great sorrow and regret of the entire South Vietnamese people, the PLAF and all the cadres and civil servants in all services and at levels for the death of President HO CHI MINH, their much respected and believed leader, the supreme leader of Vietnamese revolution, the man who had devoted his whole life to national liberation, national reunification, freedom and the entire people's happiness, to the revolutionary cause of his people and of the oppressed peoples in the world.

Architect Huynh Tan Phat, President of the PRGSVNR, read out the joint appeal of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam NFL, the Central Committee of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the PRGSVNR and the Advisory Council to the PRGSVNR to all our compatriots, combatants and cadres in South Viet Nam, calling on them to put into pratice President HO CHI MINH'S word: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom," to unite millions as one man, to go valiantly forward, to turn sorrow into revolutionary action, to do their utmost to completely defeat the US aggressors, liberate the South, defend the North and progress towards national reunification.

Le Van Thanh, Vice-President of the Liberation Youth Union, Nguyen Van Sieu, member of the Central Committee of the Liberation Peasants' Association, Cuu Long, member of the Central Committee of the Liberation Federation of Trade Unions, Mme Nguyen Bach Tuyet, member of the Central Committee of the Liberation Women's Union, Mme Nguyen Thi Dinh, Deputy-Commander of the PLAF, leaders and representatives of the Ministries of the PRGSVNR, delegates of various organizations, parties and regions delivered funeral orations expressing their immense sorrow for and their deep gratitude to President HO CHI MINH and their determination to turn sorrow into revolutionary action and to successfully carry on the great work of the late President.

Seven delegations...

(Continued from page 7)

Viet Nam NFL, and Deputy-Head of the SVNR Delegation at the Paris Conference.

4 — *The seven-member delegation of the Viet Nam People's Revolutionary Party* is headed by Nguyen Van Linh, Deputy-Secretary general of the Party's Central Committee.

5 — *The sixteen-member delegation of the Minority Nationalities* is led by Ibih Aleo, Vice-President of the South Viet Nam NFL Central Committee, President of the Movement for Autonomy of the Nationalities in the High Plateaux, member of the Advisory Conncil to the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government.

6 — *The fourteen-member delegation of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces* is led by Nguyen Minh Chau, a cadre of the PLAF.

The Vietnamese people will fight resolutely and persistently

The delegation of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front and the delegation of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces held talks in Hanoi on September 3, 1969.

The talks took place in a atmosphere full of cordiality and blood-sealed North South brotherhood. The two delegations were unanimous in issuing a joint communique on the results of the visit of the VNANDPF delegation in North Viet Nam and the results of the talks.

The communique stress:

OUR nation's 4,000 year history of building and defending the country has illustrated this radiating truth: "Viet Nam is one, the Vietnamese nation is one." In 1945, our Vietnamese people wrested back power and declared Viet Nam's independence, and Viet Nam actually become an independent and unified country, having sovereignty and territorial integrity from North to South.

Throughout the past 15 years, however, the US imperialists have deliberately violated the legitimate national rights of our people, sabotaged the unity and territorial integrity of our country, sabotaged the implementation of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indo-China. They have installed in South Viet Nam an extremely cruel puppet regime as a tool aimed at turning the South into a colony and military base of the US in an attempt to prolong the partition of Viet Nam. Since mid-1965, the US imperialists have used more than half a million US troops to conduct directly an extremely barbarous aggressive war in South Viet Nam. At the same time they have used their air and naval forces to attack the North, committing innumerable woeful crimes which our compatriots will not forgive for thousands of generations.

Under the iron heels of the US aggressors and the traitorous, anti-popular regime, the once beautiful and prosperous land of South Viet Nam has been ravaged; the once flourishing economy of South Viet Nam has decayed; the fine traditional culture and ethics of the nation has been debased; and South Vietnamese society has become confused and depraved. The life of the South Vietnamese people of all strata, especially in the cities, provincial capitals and around the US bases, has been extremely precarious.

The US—puppet regime has carried out utterly barbarous repression against patriotic, progressive and democratic people, who desire an improved life.

Religious people are not able to practise in accordance with the freedom of belief. Pagodas, churches and other places of workship are destroyed, crudely violated...

Nevertheless, over the past 15 years, the despotic power and violence of the US imperialists and their henchmen, with all their devilish ruses and stratagems, have failed to bring the South Vietnamese people to their knees. Under the leadership of the South Viet Nam NFL, the South Vietnamese people have overcome countless hardships and sacrifices, fought with sublime heroism, successively smashed all aggressive plans of the US imperialists and recorded victory after victory. Especially, since early spring of Mau Than (1968—Ed) the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces and people have continuously attacked and risen up, dealt stunning blows at the US—puppets, completely changing the war aspect, pushing the US-puppets into a position of passiveness, quandary and unavoidable defeat.

Together with the people throughout South Viet Nam, the people in areas still temporarily controlled by the enemy, particularly in the towns and cities have carried out repeated struggles against the US—puppets. Intellectuals, students, industrialists and traders, various religious circles, all forces cherishing independence, peace, democracy and neutrality, together with the labouring people, have stood up in unity to struggle for better living conditions, democracy, an end to the US aggresive war and overthrow of the Thieu-Ky puppet administration.

Early last June, the South Viet Nam Congress of People's Representatives unanimously elected the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and its Advisory Council. That is a victory of paramount historical significance of the South Vietnamese people, which has brought joy to the people throughout the country and brothers and friends in all continents.

Meanwhile, the North Vietnamese people, upholding revolutionary heroism, have resolutely surmounted all fierce trials of the war, carried out production and fighting abreast, defeated the US air war of destruction, recorded big victories in the defence and construction of North Viet Nam, thus accomplishing the task of great rear towards the great front.

Having sustained heavy defeats in both South and North Viet Nam, the US imperialists had to stop unconditionally and completely on the entire North Viet Nam territory, and sit down for a four-party conference on Viet Nam in Paris.

The big victories of the people in both South and North Viet Nam have further embellished our heroic people's tradition of solidarity against the foreign aggressors. This is the victory of the very correct military, political and diplomatic line of the Vietnamese revolution, the victory of the determination to fight and to win and of the people's strength, the victory of the militant solidarity between the blood-sealed North and South. That is the victory of the socialist camp, of the national liberation movement and the movement of struggle in defence of peace, of the world's peoples, including the progressive people in the USA.

The Viet Nam Fatherland Front and the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces express sincere thanks for the all-sided support and assistance of the Government and peoples of the brotherly socialist countries, the peace-and justice-loving countries, the international organizations, the peace-loving forces, the progressive personalities in the world, including the progressive people in the USA, who are giving stronger and stronger support to our people's struggle against the US aggressors, for national salvation.

II

DURING its visit to North, the delegation of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces was very glad to see that the national sentiment and the sense of compatriots duty of the people of both zones of the Fatherland are exceptionally warm and profound. This is a noble, sacred kith-and-kin sentiment which no reactionary force can obliterate.

It realized more clearly the support of the compatriots in the great rear towards the great front. With the slogan "All for Blood-sealed South Viet Nam," the people in the North have been devoting all their might and material resources to the liberation of the South without the least hesitation. This is an illustration of the truth that "the Vietnamese nation is one".

The delegation noted that the people in the North had on the one hand to fight and defeat the war of destruction of the US and fulfil their duty of the great rear towards the great front in the same breath, on the other hand to fight against inclement natural calamities and build a new happy life. Our 17 million compatriots in the North have to overcome innumerable difficulties and have been recording many splendid achievements.

The delegation was very glad to see with its own eyes the great achievements in economic construction and in the development of culture and education in the North. Especially North Vietnamese society has changed unceasingly. The people here also are new people, valiant and indomitable in fighting, industrious and creative in construction.

The delegation is deeply concious that under the clearsighted leadership of President Ho Chi Minh, the great patriot, the most beloved leader of our entire Vietnamese nation, with the policy of great national union of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front headed by beloved President Ton Duc Thang, the 17 million people in the North have become a steel bloc, have been overcoming and surely will overcome all obstacles on the way to build a free and happy life for themselves and for the entire nation, bringing glory to all the Vietnamese nation.

In their cordial exchange of views, both delegations were very elated to note that under the correct and clearsighted leadership of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the resistance war against the US aggressors and for national salvation of the South Vietnamese people has been developing unceasingly, and is creating possibilities and favourable opportunities for our people to flash forward and win total victory. The movement for independence, peace and neutrality, for the overthrow of the Thieu-Ky puppet administration, and for an end to the US war of aggression has drawn in students, intellectuals, journalists, followers of Buddhism and other religions, workers, public employees and even officers and men of the puppet army in the cities and areas still temporarily controlled by the enemy in the South, is gaining in depth and extent with every passing day.

The Viet Nam Fatherland Front is very happy to note that the birth of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces constituted a political event of great importance in the new stage of the South Viet Nam revolution, marking a new development of the patriotic movement against the US imperialists among intellectuals, students, religious believers, industrialists and traders in the South Viet Nam cities. The Alliance has worked continually and actively side by side with the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, and has made an important contribution to the brilliant success of the South Viet Nam Congress of People's Representatives and the setting up of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Advisory Council to the Government.

The Viet Nam Fatherland Front warmly welcomes and supports the Alliance's political program for national salvation and construction and for reunification of the country, and the 12-point program of activities of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

Following the visit to North Viet Nam of the SVNNFL delegation led by Dr. Vice-President Phung Van Cung, this visit to North Viet Nam of the VNANDPF delegation led by Lawyer Chairman Trinh Dinh Thao has contributed to tightening further the North and South blood-sealed relations, especially to further strengthening the militant solidarity between the urban people and the intellectual and student circles in the two zones with a view to struggling for an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam and proceeding towards the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland.

III

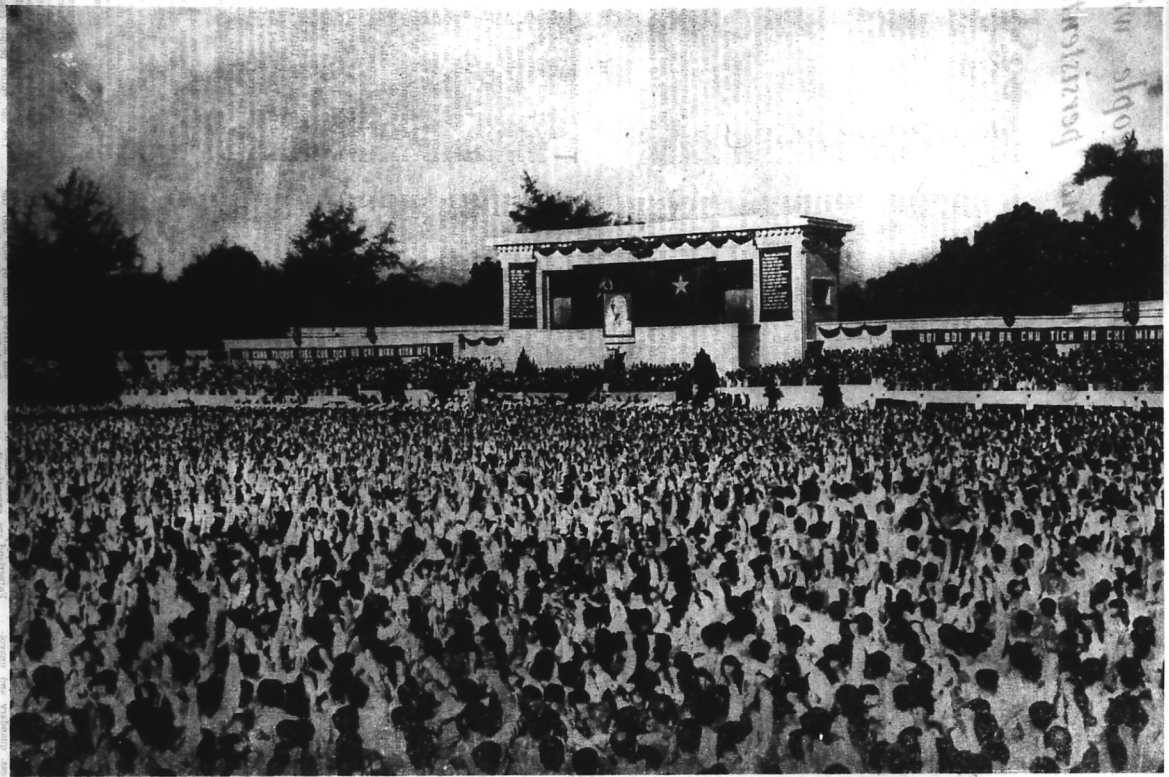
THE two delegations shared the view that the US imperialists, though heavily defeated in all fields, are still very obdurate and tricky. They continue intensifying their war of aggression and committing more and extremely barbarous crimes against our compatriots. They try to maintain the rotten Thieu-Ky henchmen now being cursed by our people. They scheme to maintain their neo-colonialist domination in South Viet Nam and prolong the partition of our country. They continue encroaching upon the sovereignty and security of the DRVN. At the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, the US still obdurately clings to its position of colonialist aggression and sets forth extremely unreasonable requests, such as "mutual troop withdrawal", thus preventing the Conference from moving forward.

In face of such a situation, the two delegations once again reaffirm their resolute support for the four-point stand of the DRVN Government, for the 10-point overall solution of the SVNNFL and the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government, considering them as the most correct, the most reasonable and logical way to end the US war in Viet Nam and restore peace in our country.

The two delegations once again reaffirm their consistent stand, that is the US, who is committing aggression against Viet Nam, must end this aggression. The US must withdraw all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam without setting any condition, and let the Vietnamese people settle their own affairs themselves without foreign interference.

So long as the US continues their aggression against Viet Nam, the Vietnamese people will fight resolutely and persistently and step up their fight till not a single US aggressor remains on their beloved soil.

Let our entire people resolutely strengthen their solidarity and fulfil that glorious task!".



100,000 *Hanoians attending the memorial ceremony for President Ho Chi Minh at Ba Dinh Square swear to live up to their pledge to continue President's work.* Photo: VNA